

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 645

By Hazlewood

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Officer Troy Kennedy of the Signal Mountain Police Department.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are honored to recognize those law enforcement officers whose quick thinking and decisive actions have protected the lives of those in peril; and

WHEREAS, Officer Troy Kennedy of the Signal Mountain Police Department is one such commendable Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, on the night of September 17, 2021, Signal Mountain police officers received information regarding a possible fugitive from North Carolina who was living and working on Signal Mountain; and

WHEREAS, the fugitive, who was wanted in multiple states and allegedly had more than thirty-one reported victims, was apprehended by the officers of the Signal Mountain Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Officer Kennedy was called upon to transport the fugitive to the Hamilton County Silverdale Detention Facility to be held for extradition to North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the designated officer handling the case, Officer Kennedy, at that time, personally coordinated with the State of Oklahoma to verify and document an additional hold placed on the fugitive by Oklahoma also pending extradition; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina hold for extradition was dropped on September 30, 2021, due to the recent death of the victim, and the fugitive was prematurely released from custody at 9:07 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, Officer Kennedy, having made himself available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, to the victims and law enforcement agencies while handling the case,

began receiving calls, texts, and emails immediately from fearful victims and other concerned citizens in the Signal Mountain community, and he communicated with each one through the early morning hours prior to returning to duty the morning of October 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, while performing traffic duty that morning, Officer Kennedy remained in communication with fellow officers to question and keep a watchful eye on the fugitive who had returned to Timberlinks Drive on Signal Mountain; and

WHEREAS, as quickly as possible, Officer Kennedy was able to verify and document the necessary information to re-capture the fugitive and return him to custody; during the few hours while released from custody, the fugitive committed additional crimes in Signal Mountain; and

WHEREAS, during processing of the case, Officer Kennedy tirelessly coordinated with law enforcement in Florida, Oklahoma, Colorado, North Carolina, Arizona, and Washington, where outstanding warrants existed for the fugitive, and spoke with many victims and others who had first-hand knowledge of the crimes allegedly committed by the fugitive; and

WHEREAS, because of the heartfelt dedication and strong work ethic of Officer Troy Kennedy to serve and protect the citizens of Signal Mountain and our great State of Tennessee, he spent substantial hours and weeks of investigative work on this case, including the sacrifice of his own personal time, which resulted in the fugitive's extradition to Oklahoma and the implementation of numerous charges against the fugitive in Signal Mountain and Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, Officer Troy Kennedy has been with the department for more than seven years and has a genuine heart for the community of Signal Mountain. He has put many victims' minds at ease that the fugitive was captured and will not soon be released; and

WHEREAS, Officer Troy Kennedy performs his duties with the utmost capability and professionalism, and his service can only be categorized as outstanding; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Officer Troy Kennedy of the Signal Mountain Police Department for his heroism and professionalism. We offer our sincerest gratitude for his exceptional service and extend to him our best wishes for every future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.